**Purchase of equity in Rosneft**

2691. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to buy equity in the Russian-based oil firm named Rosneft;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) what is the criteria being used to determine the viability of such investments in distant countries;

(d) whether a study has been conducted on the inherent risks of such investments for India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Gas for steel manufacturing**

2692. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to give gas for steel manufacturing in these days of competition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) GAIL supplied around 1.73 million standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD) gas to the Iron & Steel consumers during 2005-06. Such consumers also source their requirements from sources other than GAIL.

**Oil exploration in Tamil Nadu**

2693. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where oil exploration is taking place in Tamil Nadu; and